

Appendix table 7-24.

Public assessment of selected biotechnology applications: 2001
(Percentages)

Characteristic	Food production	Genetic testing	Animal cloning
All adults (number = 1,574)			
Strongly support	14	51	15
Moderately support	47	38	32
No opinion	2	*	2
Moderately oppose	21	6	21
Strongly oppose	15	3	27
Do not know	2	2	3
Male (number = 751)			
Strongly support	19	52	19
Moderately support	51	39	38
No opinion	1	*	1
Moderately oppose	16	6	18
Strongly oppose	12	2	22
Do not know	1	1	2
Female (number = 823)			
Strongly support	9	50	12
Moderately support	43	38	27
No opinion	2	1	3
Moderately oppose	25	5	23
Strongly oppose	18	3	32
Do not know	3	3	3
Less than high school graduate (number = 116)			
Strongly support	14	48	26
Moderately support	47	33	28
No opinion	1	0	1
Moderately oppose	18	8	16
Strongly oppose	20	6	27
Do not know	*	5	3
High school graduate (number= 834)			
Strongly support	12	50	12
Moderately support	46	40	32
No opinion	2	*	1
Moderately oppose	24	6	21
Strongly oppose	15	3	31
Do not know	2	2	3
Baccalaureate and higher (number = 614)			
Strongly support	19	55	16
Moderately support	49	38	37
No opinion	2	1	3
Moderately oppose	17	4	24
Strongly oppose	12	2	19
Do not know	1	1	3
Attentive public to science and technology (number = 195)			
Strongly support	26	62	21
Moderately support	50	30	36
No opinion	1	*	2
Moderately oppose	12	3	18
Strongly oppose	9	3	20
Do not know	3	1	3

* = <.5

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding. Responses are to the following statements:

As you may know, some food products and medicines are being developed using new scientific techniques. The general area is called *biotechnology* and includes tools such as genetic engineering and genetic modification of food. I'm going to name three types of biotechnology applications. I'd like you to tell me if you strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose, or strongly oppose these uses of biotechnology.

–Using modern biotechnology in the production of foods, for example, to make them higher in protein, keep longer, or taste better.

–Using genetic testing to detect diseases we might have inherited from our parents, such as cystic fibrosis.

–Cloning animals such as sheep whose milk can be used to make drugs and vaccines. Overall would you say you strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose, or strongly oppose this use of biotechnology?

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF/SRS), NSF Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, 2001.